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Vincent Davis, Director
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Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Stan:-

Many thanks for yours of 25 May. Your menu, as always, looks more than a little interesting, and challenging. I will do my best.

Let me say straightaway, however, that I am terribly proud of you, based on widespread recent press reports concerning your actions in playing it very straight with the Congress on the SALT II verification issue. This is surely the best and strongest step you have taken in "depoliticizing" your organization, your organization's product, and by extension the whole community. Messengers who bear bad news have traditionally experienced vulnerability, but the irony now is that your recent actions have probably enhanced your own political invulnerability. For a lot of complex reasons, you cannot be "Singlaubed." The simple fact is that there is no such thing as Republican intelligence or Democratic intelligence, and most people who count understand this very well. All we can ever have is the best possible analysis based on the best possible sources...and then the political chips must fall where they may. Going beyond the question of intelligence, a restoration of broad public confidence in good government depends heavily on the "depoliticization" of not only intelligence but also the FBI, the JCS and a few other organizations whose entire usefulness and credibility depend on being relatively free from partisan political taint in any form. After all, this was supposed to be one of the main lessons learned in the [redacted] from the Nixon era, and from all of Watergate. But you may be the first senior official to take an important step on a key policy issue which will succeed in dramatizing this fact, simply by doing your job the way it ought to be done. CHEERS! CHEERS! CHEERS!

Looking forward to seeing you again in a week or so.

Warmest personal regards,

Vincent Davis